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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEA OPENS THE 2015 EmPOWER CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME GRANT PROGRAM

These grants will help families make energy efficient improvements and assist non-profits that service the energy needs of low and moderate income Marylanders.

ANNAPOLIS, MD (November 5, 2014) . The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) has launched the FY2015 EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities Low-to-Moderate Income Grant program for applications. The program assists local governments and not-for-profit organizations by funding energy efficiency projects specifically designed to benefit low to moderate income Marylanders. Since 2010, this program has enabled approximately 11,500 Maryland buildings to save over 11,000 MWh of electricity, while substantially reducing fuel oil, propane, and natural gas use. Energy saved through this program helps Maryland reach its EmPOWER energy consumption reduction goal of 15% by 2015 and its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020, relative to 2006 levels.

According to Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, the Low-to-Moderate Income Grant Program is designed to lower energy bills for families struggling with energy costs in each and every county across the state. The grants make energy efficiency improvements cost effective, and often have an equally important effect of making these spaces safer and healthier for the occupants.

The Low-to-Moderate Income Grant Program advances the State of Maryland's goals to reduce electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, while helping to lowering energy costs for families, and those institutions that serve our most vulnerable neighbors. Past grantees have successfully used their funds to improve energy efficiency measures through weatherization, air sealing and insulation for senior housing, homeless shelters and residential homes.

The 2015 EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities Low-to-Moderate Income Grants are offered through two competitive platforms, the County Allocated program and the Statewide Competitive program.

Applications and detailed application guidance are available on MEA's website at <http://energy.maryland.gov/Govt/LMI2015.html>. Applications are due by Friday, November 21, 2014.

Funding for the program comes from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, which was created from public auctions of carbon credits through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

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The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote affordable, reliable, clean energy. MEA's programs and policies help lower energy bills, fuel the creation of green collar jobs, address environmental and climate impacts, and promote energy independence.